

REMARKS

Please reconsider the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. The Applicants thank the Examiner for carefully considering this application and for indicating that claims 4, 9-11, 34, 35, and 37 contain allowable subject matter.

Disposition of Claims

Claims 1-4, 6-11, and 30-37 are pending in the application. Claims 1 and 30 are independent. The remaining claims depend, directly or indirectly, from claims 1 and 30. Claims 4, 31, 32, and 34 have been canceled by this reply.

Claim Amendments

The Examiner indicates that claims 4 and 34 contain allowable subject matter. *See* Office Action dated January 9, 2007, at page 8. Accordingly, independent claim 1 is amended to include the limitations of canceled claim 4, and independent claim 30 is amended to include the limitations of canceled claim 34 and intervening claims 31 and 32. Consequently, intervening claims 31 and 32 are canceled. Claims 1 and 30 are also amended to address slight typographical and antecedent basis issues.

Further, claim 11 is amended to depend directly from claim 1, claims 33 and 35 are amended to depend directly from claim 30, and claim 37 is amended to depend from claim 36. No new matter has been added by way of these amendments.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-3, 6-8, 30-33, and 36 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0073215 (hereinafter “Huitema”) in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0133608 (hereinafter “Godwin”). As described above, claims 31 and 32 are canceled by this reply. Thus, this rejection is now moot with respect to claims 31 and 32. To the extent that this rejection may still apply to the amended claims, the rejection is respectfully traversed.

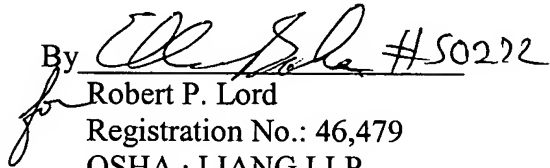
As described above, independent claims 1 and 30 have been amended to incorporate allowable subject matter. Specifically, independent claim 1 has been amended to recite the limitations of allowable claim 4, and independent claim 30 has been amended to recite the limitations of allowable claim 34 and intervening claims 31 and 32. Thus, amended independent claims 1 and 30 are patentable over Huitema in view of Godwin. Claims 2, 3, 6-11, 33, 35-37, which depend, directly or indirectly, on independent claim 1 or 30 are patentable for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Applicant believes this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places this application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference Number 16159/035001; P6566).

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Respectfully submitted,

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